

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A system for archiving reference material in a bibliography of
2 a manuscript using a communications network, the system comprising:

3 a first communications device connected to the communications
4 network for an author of a manuscript to use, wherein the author uses the first
5 communications device to transfer identification of reference material cited by the
6 author in the manuscript to the communications network;

7 a second communications device connected to the communications
8 network for an audience of the manuscript to use, wherein the audience uses the
9 second communications device to request and receive a copy of the reference
10 material cited by the author in the manuscript from the communications network;
11 and

12 a database connected to the communications network to
13 communicate with the author and the audience via the communications network,
14 wherein the database receives the identification of reference material cited by the
15 author from the author, wherein the database stores a copy of the reference
16 material and a distinctive key associated with the copy of the reference material,
17 wherein the database transmits a copy of the reference material to the audience in
18 response to receiving a request from the audience for a copy of the reference
19 material.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein:

2 the communications network is the Internet.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein:

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2 the database transmits the distinctive key associated with the copy
3 of the reference material to the author.

1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein:
2 the author cites the distinctive key associated with the copy of the
3 reference material in the manuscript, wherein the audience obtains the distinctive
4 key from the manuscript and then transmits a request having the distinctive key to
5 the database, wherein the database transmits a copy of the reference material to the
6 audience in response to receiving the request having the distinctive key.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is an
3 website.

1 6. The system of claim 5 wherein:
2 the database receives a copy of the website from the
3 communications network for storage and then transmits a copy of the website to
4 the audience in response to receiving the request from the audience for a copy of
5 the website.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is an e-
3 mail.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein:
2 the database receives a copy of the e-mail from the author via the
3 communications network for storage and then transmits a copy of the e-mail to the

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6 network to communicate with the author and the audience via the communications
7 network, the method comprising:

8 transmitting identification of reference material cited by the author
9 in the manuscript to the communications network from the first communications
10 device;

11 receiving the identification of the reference material cited by the
12 author at the database;

13 associating a distinctive key with the reference material cited by the
14 author;

15 storing at the database a copy of the reference material cited by the
16 author and the associated distinctive key;

17 transmitting a request for a copy of the reference material from the
18 audience to the database using the second communications device; and

19 transmitting a copy of the reference material from the database to
20 the audience in response to the database receiving the request for a copy of the
21 reference material from the audience.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2 transmitting the distinctive key associated with the copy of the
3 reference material from the database to the author.

1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

2 citing the distinctive key associated with the copy of the reference
3 material in the manuscript; and

4 obtaining the distinctive key from the manuscript by the audience;
5 wherein transmitting a request for a copy of the reference material
6 from the audience to the database includes transmitting a request having the
7 distinctive key to the database.

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1 16. The method of claim 13 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is a
3 website.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:
2 receiving a copy of the website at the database from the
3 communications network for storage;
4 wherein transmitting a copy of the reference material from the
5 database to the audience in response to the database receiving the request for a
6 copy of the reference material from the audience includes transmitting a copy of
7 the website to the audience.

1 18. The method of claim 13 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is an e-
3 mail.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:
2 receiving a copy of the e-mail at the database from the
3 communications network for storage;
4 wherein transmitting a copy of the reference material from the
5 database to the audience in response to the database receiving the request for a
6 copy of the reference material from the audience includes transmitting a copy of
7 the e-mail to the audience.

1 20. The method of claim 13 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is stored
3 as a digital file.

1 21. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
2 receiving a copy of the digital file at the database from the
3 communications network for storage;
4 wherein transmitting a copy of the reference material from the
5 database to the audience in response to the database receiving the request for a
6 copy of the reference material from the audience includes transmitting a copy of
7 the digital file to the audience.

1 22. The method of claim 13 wherein:
2 the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript is a
3 paper book.

1 23. The method of claim 22 further comprising:
2 receiving an electronic scanned copy of the paper book at the
3 database from the author via the communications network for storage;
4 wherein transmitting a copy of the reference material from the
5 database to the audience in response to the database receiving the request for a
6 copy of the reference material from the audience includes transmitting a copy of
7 the electronic scanned copy of the paper book to the audience.

1 24. The method of claim 13 wherein:
2 the communications network is the Internet.

1 25. A system for storing a reference material using a
2 communications network, the system comprising:
3 a first communications device connected to the communications
4 network for an author of a manuscript to use, wherein the author uses the first

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communications device to transfer a copy of the reference material and reference material availability information to the communications network;

a second communications device connected to the communications network for an audience of the manuscript to use, wherein the audience uses the second communications device to request and receive a copy of the reference material and the reference material availability information from the communications network; and

a database connected to the communications network to communicate with the author and the audience via the communications network, wherein the database receives a copy of the reference material and the reference material availability information from the author, wherein the database stores a copy of the reference material and the reference material availability information and a distinctive key associated with the copy of the reference material and the reference material availability information;

wherein, if the reference material is available, the database transmits a copy of the reference material to the audience in response to receiving a request from the audience for a copy of the reference material;

wherein, if the reference material is not available, the database transmits a copy of the reference material availability information to the audience in response to receiving a request from the audience for a copy of the reference material.